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a bracket attachable to the bridging member at any of a plurality of locations; and  
at least one notch formed in said bracket such that when said bracket is attached to said bridging member, at least one said notch extends at an incline to the elongated axis thereof. <sup>12</sup> of what?

Please cancel claims 2 and 3 without disclaimer or prejudice.

Please amend claims 4, 6-10, 15, 21 and 22 as follows:

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4. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 1, wherein said notches extend inwardly at an angle of about five and a half degrees to about eight degrees relative to a perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

102 6. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 1, wherein the notches incline in the same direction.

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7. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 1, wherein the notches have a width of about 0.065 inch (0.16 cm) to 0.080 inch (0.20 cm).

design 8. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 1, wherein the notches have a width of 0.080 inch (0.20 cm).

X 9. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 1, wherein the sides of the notches are parallel.

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X 10. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing member of claim 1, wherein the sides of the notches are straight.

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X 15. (Amended) The stud bridging/spacing system of claim 14 wherein each said stud-engaging notch in said first lateral side and each said other stud engaging notch in said second lateral side extends at an incline to the longitudinal axis of said bridging member.

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X 21. (Amended) A stud bridging/spacing system for laterally supporting a plurality of spaced-apart studs each having a web, comprising:

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means for spanning between the webs of at least two spaced-apart studs, said means for spanning having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape; and

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means for engaging the webs of the at least two spaced-apart studs, said means for engaging having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape and being removably affixable to said means for spanning in a plurality of locations therealong.

X 22. (Amended) Apparatus for laterally supporting a plurality of spaced-apart studs each having a web, said apparatus comprising:

an elongated bridging member having two ends;

a stud engager formed in said elongated bridging member; and

a face bracket attachable to a vertical surface and attachable to one end of said elongated bridging member, said face bracket having a pair of first portions which are angled to

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approximate said cross-sectional shape of said elongated bridging member and a pair of second portions which extend at right angles to said pair of first portions and are attached thereto.

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Please cancel claims 25 and 26 without disclaimer or prejudice.

Please amend claims 27, 33 and 37 as follows:

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~~27.~~ (Amended) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said elongated bridging member has a cross-sectional V-shape.

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~~33.~~ (Amended) A metal stud wall comprising:  
at least two metal studs each having at least two flanges interconnected by a web,  
the web of each stud having an opening and the studs being arranged in a row with the openings  
in the webs thereof aligned with one another;

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an elongate member spanning between the webs of at least two studs, said  
elongate member having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape;

a first bracket having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape and being  
attached to said elongated member;

at least one stud engager in said first bracket for engaging the web of one metal  
stud;

a second bracket having a substantially V-shaped cross-sectional shape and being  
attached to said elongated member; and

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at least one other stud engager in said second bracket for engaging the web of another stud.

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37. (Amended) A wall arrangement comprising:

first vertical surface means;

second wall means perpendicularly extending from said first vertical surface means, said second wall means formed from a plurality of spaced-apart metal studs each having a web portion;

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means for spanning from said vertical surface through an opening in the web of one said metal stud;

means for retainingly engaging said web of said one metal stud, said means for retainingly engaging said web of said one metal stud on said means for spanning; and

means for attaching said means for spanning to said vertical surface of said first wall.

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Please cancel claims 38-41 and 44 without disclaimer or prejudice.

## REMARKS

### I. Preliminary Comments

On October 31, 2002, Applicant filed an Amendment ("the Amendment") to an Official Action dated September 10, 2002. In the Amendment, the "clean" version of the claim